

Summary of Changes in the DRAFT Rivers Project Natural Resource Master Plan from the 2001 approved plan to 2014 plan

The entire Master Plan format and layout has been changed to comply with regulation changes in Engineering Regulation 1130-2-550 & Engineering Pamphlet 1130-2-550.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

- Minor text changes to update information

Chapter 2 - Project Setting, Factors Influencing Management, & Development

- Changes to update acreages based on the completion of surveys, resource inventories, statistic updates from census, etc.

Chapter 3 - Resource Objectives

- Changes to more completely define the objectives of each Natural Resource Management section

Chapter 4 - Land Allocation, Land Classification, Water Surface, & Project Easement Lands

- Minor text changes

Chapter 5 - Resource Plan

- This was Section 7 in the 2001 Master Plan
- Updates to text to reflect projects that have been completed
- Changes to "Proposed Future Development"
 - **See below:** "List of Potential Projects in the 2014 DRAFT Rivers Project Master Plan" for complete list
- Upper Piasa Creek Mitigation Area - The area is currently owned by America's Central Port (Tri-City Regional Port District) as mitigation requirement for building their South Harbor. This property will be transferred to USACE fee title lands no later than 2018 after the mitigation requirements have been completed. Improvements will include landscape excavation and fill for ditch and swale construction, surface water control structure installation, and native forest and herbaceous species plantings.
- Timber Ridge Mitigation Area - This area was acquired in March 2014 as partial fulfillment of compensatory wetland and nonwetland forest mitigation requirements for the Remedial Measures to Control Underseepage along Chain of Rocks East Levee Project. Improvements will include landscape excavation and fill for ditch and swale construction, surface water control structure installation, and native forest and herbaceous species plantings.
- Upper Pool 24 Missouri Lands/Islands Area - This area was not included in the 2001 Master Plan write-up for unknown reasons. The area consists of a complex of islands: Gilbert (1,125ac); Blackbird and adjacent island (135ac); North/South Fritz and Ducher (766ac); Angle and Blackburn (389ac) Islands; adjacent right ascending bank shoreline (not including Ted Shanks Conservation Area; 168ac); and surrounding off-channel aquatic habitats located on the inside bend of the river.

Chapter 6 - Special Topics, Planning Considerations, & Special Concerns

- Minor text changes to update information

Chapter 7 - Agency & Public Coordination

- Minor text changes to update information

Chapter 8 - Summary of Recommendations

- Minor text changes to update information

Appendices

- New Shoreline Management Plan
- New conceptual site plans for recreation development (Lock and Dam 24, Lock and Dam 25, Melvin Price Lock and Dam, Locks 27, Sherwood Access Area and Teal Pond).
- Updated Master Plan Plates (maps) and Land Use Allocation Plan

List of Potential Projects in the 2014 DRAFT - Rivers Project Natural Resources Master Plan (Proposed Future Development)

Pool 24 (Saverton, MO to Clarksville, MO)

- Willow North Access Area - Add a one way road with small parking lot. Potential for an ADA compliant fishing area. Create a nature trail connecting to Willow South Access Area.
- Willow South Access Area - Make determination to repair, replace, or remove the current unusable boat ramp.
- Two Rivers North Access Area - Create a trail through the adjacent public lands area. Install crushed stone camping pads. Relocate the boat ramp.
- Two Rivers South Access Area - Rehabilitate courtesy docks, possibly making them ADA compliant. Rehabilitate boat ramp to accommodate larger boats.
- Gosline Access Area - Create three distinct primitive camping sites.
- Silo Access Area - Create hiking trail to Clarksville Refuge. Improve the parking lot for boat trailers.
- Pleasant Hill Access Area - Potential for trail development. Potential for opening spillway for pedestrian access.
- Clarksville Riverfront - Proposed to install underground electricity and water to the gazebo for special events. Place benches along trail and shoreline for viewing.

Pool 25 (Clarksville, MO to Winfield, MO)

- Westport Island - Forestry Work (Timber Stand Improvement) - Purpose is to increase the compositional and structural diversity, as well as the health and vigor of floodplain forests. Small selective tree cuts can open areas for less-shade tolerant species tree species; to improve tree regeneration and increase the diversity of age classes.
- Hurricane Access Area - Relocate boat ramp downstream to provide a safer river access.
- Foley Access Area - Relocation of boat ramp. Build a gravel parking lot to accommodate various visitor uses landside of the spur dike, adjacent to the entrance road.
 - Winfield Access Area (See conceptual site plan in Master Plan Appendices)
 - Replace overlook
 - Replace restrooms
 - Add security lighting to the parking lot
 - Add a picnic shelter
 - Improvements to the nature trail to be ADA compliant
 - Eagle viewing platform - look for partner to aid in the replacement of the structure

Pool 26 (Winfield, MO to Alton, IL)

- Sherwood Access Area - Develop area with picnic tables, courtesy dock, fishing pier, etc. Riprap part of shoreline for erosion control. (See conceptual site plan in Master Plan Appendices)
- Ameren Missouri Lease - Continue discussions with Ameren Missouri about potential land exchange within this compartment.
- Melvin Price Spur Dike Area - Add boat portage around lower water dam.
- Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary
 - Teal Pond Aquatic Area - Remove some of rip rap to improve visitor access. Create ADA accessible fishing pier and other amenities. Establish aquatic vegetation to improve water quality and aquatic habitat. (See conceptual site plan in Master Plan Appendices)
 - Spur Dike Area
 - Upgrade the Environmental Learning Facility
 - Audubon Center at Riverlands Enhancements
 - Viewing structure additions throughout the Sanctuary
 - Bridge/Boardwalk across Ellis Bay
 - Maple Island bridges and/or trails
 - Add greenhouse
 - Upgrade existing observation deck
 - Prairie-Marsh Area - Management could include thinning trees (Timber Stand Improvement) in this area to improve and increase marsh/wet prairie habitat.
- National Great Rivers Museum
 - Congressional authorized 12,000 ft² expansion.
 - Update exhibits and Illinois Esplanade Recreation Area as described in the NGRM interpretive plan developed in 2014.
 - Reconfigure office space to provide adequate space.

- Add kitchen facilities.
- Illinois Esplanade Recreation Area - Investigate the feasibility of and construct a river stairway similar to those that exist at the Clarksville Riverfront.
- Dresser Island Conservation Area - Create a hard surface hiking/biking trail on the island.
- Perry Island Area - Improve backwater habitat for submerged aquatic vegetation and fisheries habitat.
- Slim Island Area - Change classification from Environmental Sensitive to Vegetation Maintenance.
- Piasa Island Area - Enhance secondary channel depth and create flow diversity utilizing the Environmental Management Program – Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program (EMP-HREP). Project fact sheet approved in 2010 for further design and future construction.
- Upper Piasa Mitigation Area - The area is currently owned by America's Central Port (Tri-City Regional Port District) as mitigation requirement for building their South Harbor. This property will be transferred to USACE fee title lands no later than 2018 after the mitigation requirements have been completed. Improvements will include landscape excavation and fill for ditch and swale construction, surface water control structure installation, and native forest and herbaceous species plantings.
- Timber Ridge Mitigation Area - This area was acquired in March 2014 as partial fulfillment of compensatory wetland and nonwetland forest mitigation requirements for the Remedial Measures to Control Underseepage along Chain of Rocks East Levee Project. Improvements will include landscape excavation and fill for ditch and swale construction, surface water control structure installation, and native forest and herbaceous species plantings.

Chain of Rocks Canal Area (Alton, IL to Locks 27 at Granite City, IL)

- Locks 27 Public Access - Rehabilitate and reopen the overlook, visitor center, and public restrooms (See conceptual site plan in Master Plan Appendices)
- Low Water Dam Access Area - Add boat portage around lower water dam.
- Chouteau Slough Area - Due to the success of mitigation tree plantings, sites will be thinned (Timber Stand Improvement) in order to improve forest health and tree growth.

General proposed activities throughout the Rivers Project Area

- Prescribed burns to manage prairies and forests
- Repaving parking lots (convert from gravel to concrete/asphalt/chip & seal)
- Enlarging parking lots at some access areas
- Replacing boat ramp / convert from gravel to concrete
- Herbicide applications to control invasive species
- Forest Management – timber stand improvement (TSI), tree cutting, tree planting, mowing to reduce invasive vegetation.
- Creation/expansion of trails, boardwalks, viewing structures, and/or observation decks
- Access gate installation & replacement (vehicle & pedestrian)
- Installing guardrail around parking lots

- Installing water control structures for wetland restoration
- Primitive camping site creation and maintenance
- Boat ramp channel dredging
- Improve backwater habitat for submerged aquatic vegetation and fisheries habitat
- Cabin demolition and site restoration